



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner:

Art Unit: Certificate

In the matter of:

OCT 03 2003
of Correction

U.S. Letters Patent
No. 6,532,638 B2

Issued: March 18, 2003

9/12
sf/s

PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

September 25, 2003

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

The patentee herewith petitions for a Certificate of Correction of the
captioned patent.

Specifically, this Petition for a Certificate of Correction is filed in order to
remove from Claim 1 the limitation "and mounting to said re-bent flat blade combined
with said wiping bar a connection device for a wiper arm."

In the simultaneous Amendment filed together with the Request for
Continued Examination on August 12, 2002, Claim 1 was specifically amended to
remove this limitation. A copy of the simultaneous Amendment is attached hereto and it
will be seen at page 8 that the bracketed limitation was to be deleted. Additionally, the
amended Claim 1 as set forth on pages 9 and 10 of the simultaneous Amendment do
not include this limitation.

MAIL STOP DAC

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
On 9/26/03
715

OCT 06 2003

The simultaneous Amendment was considered by the Examiner and in an interview summary of an interview which took place on October 8, 2002, the Examiner specifically stated that the RCE will be entered and considered.

The Notice of Allowability of which a copy is also attached, specifically indicates that the RCE and simultaneous Amendment were considered by the Examiner.

It thus appears that the insertion of this limitation in Claim 1 was a typographical error when the patent was printed and accordingly it is believed that this Certificate of Correction deleting this limitation is appropriate.

Since this appears to be U.S. PTO error, it is believed that no fee is required. If, however, a fee is required, authorization is given to debit the account of the undersigned #19-4675.

A form of a Certificate of Correction is further attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Marc Quemuel Jimenez

Art Unit: 3726

In re:

Applicant: WILHELM, Manfred

Serial No.: 09/942,327

Filed: August 29, 2001

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

August 1, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of February 11, 2002, please
amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please amend the specification as attached.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 5, 6 and 9 without prejudice.

Amend the claims as attached.

Add the claims as attached.

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-3, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) over the patent to Fourie.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Fourie.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 5-9 were not rejected over the art.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of some claims has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this indication claims 5 and 6 have been canceled and claims 12 and 13 have been submitted which include the features of the canceled claims and are independent claims. It is believed that claims 12 and 13 together with claims 7 and 8 which depend on claim 13 are now in allowable condition.

At the same time, claim 1, the broadest claim on file, has been amended to more clearly define the present invention and distinguish it from the prior art.

Turning now to the Examiner's rejection of the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the patent to Fourie '672 does not disclose a method of producing flat blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, neither as claimed in the original claim 1 nor as claimed in the amended claim 1. The patent to Fourie discloses only a method and an apparatus for producing beams having a thickness which varies along their length. The real bending process giving the beam a curvature over its length follows after the process disclosed in the patent to Fourie. It may be that during the process disclosed in the patent to Fourie the beam will be bent in different directions, but not to produce "curved flat blades" as defined in claim 1. Therefore, the patent to Fourie can neither anticipate nor make obvious a method of producing flat blade windshield wipers with curved flat blades. Such an interpretation of the patent to Fourie is possible only when a person familiarizes himself with knowledge of the present invention. However, this is a hindsight which is not a justifiable reason for rejection.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that claim 1, the broadest claim on file, should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, they share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Any costs involved should be charged to the deposit account of the undersigned (No. 19-4675). Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233

CLAIMS

Amend the following claims:

1. A method of producing flat-blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a spring band formed of a plurality of flat blades arranged one next to another in a direction of elongation of said spring band through feed rolls and guide rolls;

bending said spring band in one transversal direction between three support sites spaced from each other in a direction of feeding of said spring band and resting successively in an alternating manner on one of two sides of said spring band;

re-bending said spring band in another transversal direction opposite to said one transversal direction in a fourth support site arranged subsequently to said three support sites by a degree of re-bending lower than a bending degree in said bending step;

adjusting a degree of bending during a bending process to realize different bending radii within one flat blade;

separating each individual flat blade of a re-bent spring band from a remaining spring band;

mounting a connection device for a wiper arm to said flat blade;

and

combining each individual flat blade with a rubber-elastic wiping
bar[;

and mounting to said re-bent flat blade combined with said
wiping bar a connection device for a wiper arm].

Amended claim 1:

1. A method of producing flat-blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a spring band formed of a plurality of flat blades arranged one next to another in a direction of elongation of said spring band through feed rolls and guide rolls;

bending said spring band in one transversal direction between three support sites spaced from each other in a direction of feeding of said spring band and resting successively in an alternating manner on one of two sides of said spring band;

re-bending said spring band in another transversal direction opposite to said one transversal direction in a fourth support site arranged subsequently to said three support sites by a degree of re-bending lower than a bending degree in said bending step;

adjusting a degree of bending during a bending process to realize different bending radii within one flat blade;

separating each individual flat blade of a re-bent spring band from a remaining spring band;

mounting a connection device for a wiper arm to said flat blade;
and

combining each individual flat blade with a rubber-elastic wiping
bar.

New claims:

12. A method of producing flat-blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a spring band formed of a plurality of flat blades arranged one next to another in a direction of elongation of said spring band through feed rolls and guide rolls;

bending said spring band in one transversal direction between three support sites spaced from each other in a direction of feeding of said spring band and resting successively in an alternating manner on one of two sides of said spring band;

re-bending said spring band in another transversal direction opposite to said one transversal direction in a fourth support site arranged subsequently to said three support sites by a degree of re-bending lower than a bending degree in said bending step;

separating each individual flat blade of a re-bent spring band from a remaining spring band;

mounting a connection device for a wiper arm to said flat blade;
and

combining each individual flat blade with a rubber-elastic wiping bar;

wherein in said bending step, a central support site of said three support sites and, in said re-bending step, said fourth support site are each displaceable transversely to said spring band in a direction of a width of said spring band, and

wherein transverse displacements of said central support site and said fourth support site are controlled according to preset programs which take into account changes in the material thickness in said flat blades.

13. A method of producing flat-blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a spring band formed of a plurality of flat blades arranged one next to another in a direction of elongation of said spring band through feed rolls and guide rolls;

bending said spring band in one transversal direction between three support sites spaced from each other in a direction of feeding of said spring band and resting successively in an alternating manner on one of two sides of said spring band;

re-bending said spring band in another transversal direction opposite to said one transversal direction in a fourth support site arranged subsequently to said three support sites by a degree of re-bending lower than a bending degree in said bending step;

adjusting a degree of bending to realize different bending radii within one bending process;

separating each individual flat blade of a re-bent spring band from a remaining spring band;

mounting a connection device for a wiper arm to said flat blade;
and

combining each individual flat blade with a rubber-elastic wiping bar;

wherein at least one of said three support sites for bending the spring band in said bending step is designed as a cutting edge, and

wherein said separating step includes passing a cutter along said cutting edge.

14. A method of producing flat-blade windshield wipers for motor vehicles with curved flat blades, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding a spring band formed of a plurality of flat blades arranged one next to another in a direction of elongation of said spring band through feed rolls and guide rolls;

bending said spring band in one transversal direction between three support sites spaced from each other in a direction of feeding of said

spring band and resting successively in an alternating manner on one of two sides of said spring band;

re-bending said spring band in another transversal direction opposite to said one transversal direction in a fourth support site arranged subsequently to said three support sites by a degree of re-bending lower than a bending degree in said bending step;

adjusting a degree of bending and/or re-bending to realize different bending radii within one bending process;

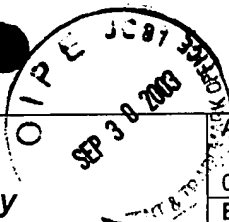
separating each individual flat blade of a re-bent spring band from a remaining spring band;

mounting a connection device for a wiper arm to said flat blade;

combining each individual flat blade with a rubber-elastic wiping bar; and

optically measuring and comparing said flat blades with specified nominal values and using mean deviations from said nominal values for correcting programs in said bending step and said re-bending step.

Notice of Allowability



Application No.

09/942,327

Examiner

Marc Jimenez

Applicant(s)

WILHELM ET AL.

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the request for reconsideration filed 8/12/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-14.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/445,880.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>11</u> |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. <u>8</u> | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Gregory M. Vidovich
GREGORY M. VIDOVICH
PRIMARY EXAMINER
SEP 24 3726